

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 as follows (see the accompanying "marked up" version pursuant to §1.121):

20. (Amended) A method for reducing distortion on a digital subscriber line comprising:

performing a channel loss measurement on said digital subscriber line;

determining a minimum required signal level; and

adjusting a signal level on said digital subscriber line to remain above said minimum required signal level, wherein said adjusting step occurs in response to a telephone hookswitch changing from being in an on-hook state to being in an off-hook state.

27. (Amended) A method for controlling a transmit power level of a modem comprising the steps of:

activating the modem;

measuring a noise margin;

counting errors during a time interval; and

comparing the noise margin to a noise margin threshold;

comparing the number of errors to an error threshold;

if the noise margin and number of errors do not exceed the thresholds, saving the transmit power level;

otherwise decreasing said transmit power level, and

indicating a need to install an in-line-filter if the noise margin does not exceed the threshold.

28. (Amended) A method for controlling a modem transmission while telephone equipment is in an off-hook state comprising the steps of:

a2 determining the off-hook state by detecting operational changes in a digital subscriber line modem;

determining if said modem transmission is allowed during said off-hook state;

setting a minimum power per carrier to support a minimum pre-defined data rate with a minimum pre-defined noise margin.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 28 further comprising the step

a3 of:

initializing a modem.